

Serial No. 09/955,126

Attorney Docket No. 259/011

Amendment dated May 27, 2004Further to Examiner Interview of May 25, 2004REMARKS

Claims 1-18, 20-29, and 31-42 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, claims 1, 8, 18, and 29 are amended to more particularly recite the subject matter of the present invention. Support for the instant amendment may be found in at least paragraphs [0028] - [0030] of the specification as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter is added by the instant amendment.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended by the Examiner to the undersigned representative during a telephone interview conducted on May 25, 2004. In accordance with agreement reached in the course of that interview, applicants submit the foregoing amendments to claims 1, 8, 18, and 29.

Claims 1-18, 20-29 and 31-42 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

In view of the agreement reached with the Examiner during the interview of May 25, 2004, and amendments submitted herewith, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-18, 20-29 and 31-42 are now in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all pending claims is hereby requested.

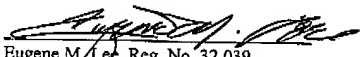
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Respectfully submitted,

LEE & STERBA, P.C.

Date: May 27, 2004


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PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on May 27, 2004.


Signature

Susan G. Werbow

Name of Person Signing Certificate